

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02028 01 OF 02 132225Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 PC-04 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00

IO-14 A-01 AID-20 OC-06 CCO-00 NIC-01 OMB-01 OPR-02

SCCT-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-04 USSS-00 CU-04 SIL-01

LAB-06 DRC-01 /181 W
----- 005178

O R 132150Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7082

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEGUCIGALPA 2028

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, HO

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN TEGUCIGALPA

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1965; 1985 AND 2008

BEGIN SUMMARY: TEGUCIGALPA HAS RETURNED TO CALM AFTER VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS ON MAY 8 AND 9 THAT GREW OUT OF A DEMONSTRATION ON THE EVENING OF MAY 8 PLANNED TO PROTEST MAY 1 KILLINGS IN GUATEMALA. DISTURBANCE RESULTED IN 1 DEATH, 43 INJURIES, 240 DETAINEES AND BETWEEN \$100,000 AND \$200,000 IN DAMAGES. THE DISTURBANCES HAVE BEEN THE MOST VIOLENT SINCE 1968 AND HAVE CAUSED A WAVE OF CONCERN IN VARIOUS SOCIAL SECTORS. THE POLITICAL PARTIES, THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT PRIVATE SECTOR AND THEIR NEWSPAPER ALLIES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 02028 01 OF 02 132225Z

WILL UNDOUBTEDLY USE THE CIVIL DISTURBANCES TO DISCREDIT

AND BRING PRESSURE ON THE LOPEZ REGIME. END SUMMARY.

1. TEGUCIGALPA HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL ACTIVITY TODAY AFTER RELATIVELY VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS ON MAY 8 AND 9. STORES IN CENTER OF CITY ARE REPLACING SHATTERED WINDOWS AND TAKING INVENTORIES OF DAMAGE. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS ACCOUNTS DAMAGE INFLICTED ON COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN BREAKAGE AND LOOTING ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN \$100,000 AND \$200,000. ESTIMATED CASUALTIES DURING PERIOD ARE 1 DEAD, 13 POLICE INJURED, 30 CIVILIANS INJURED AND 240 INDIVIDUALS DETAILED. OF 240 DETAINEES 40 WERE STUDENTS WHO WERE APPREHENDED ON MAY 8 BUT SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED, WHILE REMAINING 200 ARE SUSPECTED PILLAGERS WHO ARE STILL BEING HELD.

2. DISTURBANCES ORIGINATED IN MAY 8 DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZED BY THE CGT, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LABOR CONFEDERATION, AND THE FEUH, THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED STUDENT FEDERATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONDURAS, TO PROTEST KILLINGS IN GUATEMALA ON MAY 1. DEMONSTRATION STARTED AT APPROXIMATELY 4:00 P.M. IN DOWNTOWN PARK WHERE ORGANIZERS MADE SPEECHES CONDEMNING GUATEMALAN ACTIONS AND ASKING THAT GUATEMALAN AMBASSADOR BE DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA. ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO MARCH TO GUATEMALAN EMBASSY BUT THE CES, THE HONDURAN POLICE FORCE, PROHIBITED THE MARCH. ORGANIZERS ATTEMPTED TO DISSOLVE MEETING BUT VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS CALLED ON CROWD TO MARCH ON EMBASSY IN SPITE OF CES ORDERS.

3. CLASHES BEGAN APPROXIMATELY AT 5:30 P.M. ON MAY 8 AND INCREASED IN INTENSITY UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 10:00 P.M. WHEN THEY TAPERED OFF. STUDENT WAS SHOT AND KILLED AT APPROXIMATELY 7:30 P.M. CES DENIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACT. OTHER SOURCES INDICATE THAT STUDENT WAS KILLED BY CES POLICEMAN AS HE WAS RUNNING DOWN STREET WITH OTHER COMPANIONS.

4. CLASHES BETWEEN POLICE AND DEMONSTRATORS AGAIN ERUPTED EARLY ON THE MORNING OF MAY 9 AND CONTINUED THROUGHOUT DAY. DURING EVENING OF MAY 9 AND MORNING OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEGUCI 02028 01 OF 02 132225Z

MAY 10 THERE WERE SCATTERED INCIDENTS. FULL COMPLEMENT OF POLICE NUMBERING 800 WAS EMPLOYED DURING MAY 10 DISTURBANCES AND UTILIZED ALMOST COMPLETE INVENTORY OF TEAR GAS. UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES AND FEUH LEADERS MET WITH POLICE OFFICIALS AT MIDDAY ON MAY 9 TO TRY TO PUT A STOP TO THE VIOLENCE. THE FEUH AND UNIVERSITY LEADERS PROMISED TO TRY AND RESTRAIN THEIR MEMBERSHIP FROM VIOLENT ACTION AND THE POLICE PROMISED TO RELEASE THE 40 STUDENTS DETAINED THE

PREVIOUS DAY AND MAKE AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ONE DEATH.
ARMY TROOPS WERE RECALLED TO THEIR BARRACKS AND PUT ON
ALERT ON MAY 9. THE ARMY LEADERSHIP MET ON MAY 9 AND 10
AND WERE PREPARED TO COMMIT TROOPS IN THE EVENT THE POLICE
PROVED UNABLE TO QUELL THE DISTURBANCES.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02028 02 OF 02 132218Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 PC-04 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00

IO-14 A-01 AID-20 OC-06 CCO-00 NIC-01 OMB-01 OPR-02

SCCT-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-04 USSS-00 CU-04 SIL-01

LAB-06 DRC-01 /181 W

----- 005118

O R 132150Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7083

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEGUCIGALPA 2028

5. EMIN BARJUM, PRESIDENT
OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF
TEGUCIGALPA, SENT A TELEGRAM TO CHIEF OF STATE WSWALDO
LOPEZ ARELLANO REQUESTING THE IMMEDIATE RESTORATION OF
ORDER BECAUSE OF THE DESTRUCTION AND ANARCHY REIGNING IN
THE CITY. THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RECOMMENDED THAT
COMMERCE ESTABLISHMENTS CLOSE UNTIL ORDER WAS RESTORED.
A NUMBER OF BUSINESSES REOPENED ON THE MORNING OF MAY 11.
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FESITRANH, THE NORTH COAST
LABOR FEDERATION, AND A REGIONAL COMMISSION OF COHEP,

THE COUNCIL OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON MAY 11 CONDEMNING THE DISTURBANCES AND CALLING ON THE AUTHORITIES TO DETERMINE WHO WERE THE INSTIGATORS OF THE VIOLENCE. FEUH ISSUED A DECLARATION CONDEMNING THE "BRUTAL" ACTION OF THE POLICE AND BLAMING THE "ULTRARIGHT" FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 02028 02 OF 02 132218Z

PROVOCATIONS LEADING TO THE DISORDER. IT RULLED THE DISTURB-

ANCES PART OF AN OLIGARCHIC PLAN TO FURTHER ITS REACTIONARY SCHEMES TO OPPRESS TCO PEOPLE. COLPROSUMAH, HONDURAS' LARGEST TEACHERS ORGANIZATION, ALSO PARTICIPATED WITH THE CGT AND FEUH IN ORGANIZING THE DEMONSTRATION. THE PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZATION BLAMED THE FRU, THE COMMUNIST UNIVERSITY REFORM FRONT, FOR BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ERUPTION OF VIOLENCE AND BLAMED IT FOR CAUSING THE DEMONSTRATION TO DEGENERATE FROM A MEETING INTO STREET DISORDERS.

6. THE PRESS COVERAGE WAS PREDICTABLY SOMBER, AND CONJURED UP THE POSSIBILITY OF "FORCES" ATTEMPTING TO SUBJECT THE COUNTRY. TIEMPO STATED IN AN EDITORIAL THAT THERE ARE "POLITICAL TURMOIL THAT WILL PERMIT THEM TO REGAIN A DECISIVE POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT." A LA PRENSA EDITORIAL ASKED WHETHER "THE ARMY WILL CONTINUE TO TOLERATE SUCH ACTS AGAINST ORDER, LAW, RIGHTS AND SOCIAL PEACE." LA PRENSA ALSO CARRIED A MAY 12 COMMUNIQUE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA IN ITS MAY 13 EDITION. COMMUNIQUE ACCUSES ALBERTO FUENTES MOHR AND OTHER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS OF ATTEMPTING TO INSTIGATE HOSTILE ACTIONS AGAINST GUATEMALA IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THE COMMUNIQUE DESCRIBES TEGUCIGALPA AS THE "GENERAL HEAD-QUARTERS" OF FUENTES.

7. COMMENT: THE POLICE ACTION IN REPRESSING THE DISTURBANCES HAS BEEN THE STRONGEST SINCE 1969. THE SIZE AND NATURE OF THE DISTURBANCES WHEN VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF SIMILAR SITUATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WAS NOT EXCESSIVELY SEVERE. HOWEVER, TEGUCIGALPA HAS NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO THIS KIND OF DISTURBANCE FOR A LONG TIME AND ITS SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT HAS HAD THE EFFECT OF TRAUMATIZING THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AS WELL AS OTHER INFLUENTIAL SOCIAL SECTORS. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL BE USED BY THE POLITICAL PARTIES, THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT PRIVATE SECTOR AND THEIR NEWSPAPER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEGUCI 02028 02 OF 02 132218Z

ALLIES TO BRING ADDED PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT. THE
OBVIOUS RESULT DESIRED BY THESE GROUPS IS TO CAUSE ELEMENTS
WITHIN THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT TO PRESSURE LOPEZ INTO
A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT.
DAVIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, CIVIL DISORDERS, STUDENT GROUPS, POLICE FORCES, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEGUCI02028
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740117-0442
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740551/aaaabtnn.tel
Line Count: 232
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEGUCIGALPA 1965; 1985 AND 2008
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFTERMATH OF CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN TEGUCIGALPA
TAGS: PINS, PINT, HO, GT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005